



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/164,606	10/01/98	BENSON	G MEDIDNA.001E

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EXAMINER

VON BUHR, M

ART UNIT

2171

PAPER NUMBER

13

DATE MAILED: 12/22/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

1. All claims are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS from the date of this letter. Upon expiration of the period of suspension, Applicant should make an inquiry as to the status of the application.

2. Any response to this Office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry);

Or:

(703) 308-5403 (for informal/draft communications; label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered papers should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Dr., Arlington, VA, 6th Floor (Receptionist).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Maria N. Von Buhr whose telephone number is (703) 305-3837. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Anton Fetting can be reached at (703) 305-8449.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.



MARIA N. VON BUHR  
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 2171

MNVB  
12/6/00